

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W

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R 100555Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8863

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 0565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJ: LOCAL KHMER PRESS FABRICATION OF SIHANOUK-MANSFIELD
ENCOUNTER

REFS: A. PARIS 546

B. PHNOM PENH 399 - KHMER REPORT, JANUARY 7, 1975

1. REFTEL B DESCRIBED HOW ONE KHMER LANGUAGE DAILY PRINTED AN ARTICLE ON THE ALLEGED SIHANOUK-MANSFIELD MEETING IN WHICH PRINCE OUTLINED THREE "CONDITIONS" WHICH MUST BE SATISFIED IF TALKS ARE TO BEGIN. AS INDICATED REFTEL A, AFP AND OTHER FRENCH NEWS MEDIA HAVE PICKED UP THE STORY AND GIVEN IT TOTALLY UN-DESERVED PUBLICITY.

2. OFFENDING KHMER DAILY HERE, NOT CONTENT WITH ORIGINAL VERSION, HAS IN SUCCEEDING DAYS INDULGED IN ADDITIONAL FANCIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IT HAS CLU IMED THAT AN ENVOY OF SENATOR MANSFIELD VISITED LON NOL, DURING LATTER'S BRIEF DECEMBER VACATION IN THE PORT CITY OF KOMPONG SOM, IN ORDER TO "INFORM" THE MARSHAL OF THE SIHANOUK CONDITIONS.

3. EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE THIS FALSE AND
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IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING. PAO WHEN STORY FIRST BROKE

CITED SENATOR MANSFIELD'S DENIAL THAT HE HAD SEEN SIHANOUK WHILE IN PEKING. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN KHMER PAPER CONTINUED ITS FAIRY TALES, PAO SUGGESTED TO MINISTER OF INFORMATION THAT THE PAPER BE VERBALLY REPRIMANDED. WHEN THIS TOO PROVED INSUFFICIENT, THE MINISTER ON JANUARY 9 CLOSED THE PAPER FOR A WEEK

4. COMMENT: HOPEFULLY THE MINISTER'S ACTION WILL DISCOURAGE SUCH SENSATIONALIST ERRONEOUS REPORTING IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, OPTIMISTIC ON THAT SCORE.
DEAN

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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